

ADECA

Building Better Alabama Communities



2009-2010
Annual Report

building better alabama communities

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

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ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA



Jim Byard, Jr.
DIRECTOR

Although I have just begun my service as director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, I have long been familiar with some of the key programs administered by ADECA and I have seen their positive impact on Alabama communities.

As a former mayor and council member of a growing city, I learned how ADECA grants and programs can contribute to making communities stronger, safer and better places to live and work.

With the economic challenges facing our nation and state, I am grateful that Gov. Robert Bentley has given me the opportunity to lead a state agency that plays a significant role in providing jobs for Alabamians. Every program and project that ADECA manages has the potential to boost our state's economy. Along with Gov. Bentley, I am committed to sharply focusing the department's resources on activities that will translate into new or better employment opportunities across Alabama.

Many of ADECA's programs help communities improve and expand infrastructure in order to make it possible for a new industry to locate in Alabama or to allow an existing business to grow. Our workforce development programs include funding for employee training that helps Alabama businesses improve efficiency and ensure that workers are prepared to compete in the global economy.

Other ADECA programs help ensure that Alabama provides the right conditions for growth and prosperity. We administer grants that make our neighborhoods and highways safer, and we also help improve the overall quality of life by supporting the development of outdoor recreation opportunities. ADECA works to protect Alabama's access to an adequate water supply and helps businesses and individuals cut expenses by maximizing energy efficiency.

This annual report provides a sampling of our activities that I hope will serve as a useful overview for newly elected officials and others who may be unfamiliar with the range of ADECA programs. Our mission is to administer these programs in a way that will strengthen economic development and improve the lives of every Alabamian.

I welcome your questions and invite your suggestions. I look forward to working with other state officials and community leaders to build an environment in which Alabama's economy can flourish and provide residents with ample opportunity to achieve a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Legislative Oversight Commission

The Legislative Oversight Commission was a part of the 1983 Act which created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs—Act 83-194. The commission is composed of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Senate



Chairperson

Ted Little



Bobby Denton



Phil Poole



Bobby Singleton



Roger Bedford

House



Alan Boothe



John Knight



Jack Page



Jack Williams



Tammy Irons

ADECA
Director

Energy

Terri Adams, Division Director

- State Energy Program (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
- Energy Emergency and Assurance Program
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Program
- Local Government Energy Loan Program
- Energy Efficiency in Rural Water Systems
- Building Energy Codes Program
- Biomass Energy Program
- Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program
- Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program
- State Buildings Energy Efficiency Program
- Alternative Transportation Fuels Program
- Energy Efficient Homes Program
- Energy Education Program
- ENERGY STAR® Program
- School Retrofit Program
- Renewable Energy Program

Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

Robert H. Pruitt, Division Director

- Family Violence and Victims' Programs
- Law Enforcement Programs
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Highway Traffic Safety
- Juvenile Justice
- Corrections

Office of Workforce Development

Steve Walkley, Division Director

- Workforce Investment Act
- Alabama's Career Center System
- Focused Industry Training
- Career Readiness Certificate Initiative
- Alabama Customized Employment Program
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Rapid Response
- Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development

Community and Economic Development Programs

Shabbir Olia, Programs Manager

- Economic Development
- Competitive Grants
- Special Projects
- Planning Grants
- Community Enhancement
- Emergency Shelter Grants

Community Services Section

G. D. "Willie" Whitehead, Section Manager

- Community Service Block Grants
- Community Action Agencies
- Community Food and Nutrition
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Granting Entities

Support Entities

Other Entities

Organizational Chart as of September 30, 2010

Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs

Bea Forniss, Programs Manager

- Renewal Communities
- Enterprise Communities
- Delta Regional Authority
- Gulf Opportunity Zone Credit Program
- Minority Business Enterprises
- Community and Economic Development Technical Assistance
- Alabama Enterprise Zones

Recreational Programs

Rob Grant, Programs Manager

- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational Trails Program

Appalachian Regional Commission

Bonnie Durham, Program Manager

- Appalachian Regional Development
- Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects
- Appalachian Area Development

Office of Water Resources

Brian Atkins, Division Chief

- Floodplain Management
- Interstate Support Program
- Alabama Water Resources Commission
- Water Management Program

Other Programs

- Alabama Advantage
- Alabama Rural Action Commission
- Black Belt Action Commission
- ConnectingAlabama • GIS
- Passport to Fitness

Human Resources

**Ramona Carroll
Manager**

Program Integrity

**Paula Murphy
Manager**

Legal

**Eddie Davis
Legal Counsel**

Audit

**Wendy Hester
Audit Manager**

Communications and Information

Larry Childers, Division Director

- Public Information
- Census Bureau Liaison
- Charitable Campaigns
- Graphic Arts
- Legislation

Financial Services

Tammy Rolling, Accounting Director

- Fiscal Section
- Property Management
- Payroll

Information Services

Scott Randolph, Manager

- PC Support
- Operations
- Telecommunications
- Programming

Surplus Property

Shane Bailey, Division Director

- State and Federal Property Collection
- Transfers to Governments, Non-profits
- Public Auctions

Community and Economic Development Programs

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HELP CREATE JOBS, IMPROVE COMMUNITIES IN ALABAMA

Providing clean water, paving the way for new jobs and eliminating health and safety hazards are only a few of the needs that the Community Development Block Grant Program helps Alabama cities and counties to address.

A flagship program for ADECA and the Community and Economic Development section, CDBGs are perhaps the most well known federal grant impacting communities in the state, and for good reason. CDBGs serve as a lifeline to fund critical projects that many communities simply cannot afford without assistance.

Since 2003, Alabama has awarded about \$184 million in CDBG funding impacting more than 600 communities. Although designed to assist low- and

moderate-income citizens, CDBG projects almost always benefit entire communities.

When the CDBG program was created in 1974 under the administration of President Gerald Ford, it marked a policy shift that enabled states to have more control over the allocation of federal tax dollars. States receive funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and are able to determine how that funding should be spent on a local level. Larger cities, known as entitlement communities, receive funding directly from HUD to address specific needs within their jurisdictions. Other areas of the state submit grant applications to ADECA.

Although there are federal guidelines, each



Community Development Block Grants are perhaps the most recognized grant program at ADECA.

state sets priorities and determines how best to distribute CDBG funding. Alabama's plan establishes procedures and programs designed to ensure fairness and even distribution of funding.

Economic Development Grants are awarded to cities and counties, including entitlement communities, to help provide jobs. Funding is generally used to assist new or expanding industries with infrastructure needs. The grants are awarded on an as-needed basis.

Projects may range from building a rail spur line connecting an industrial building to a main railroad line, improving or establishing water service to an industry to improve fire safety and lower insurance rates or preparing land for a new building.

Often the award has multiple benefits. A \$240,000 grant awarded to assist in the expansion of North American Lighting Inc. in the Shoals area not only meant building a road to the production facility, but it also provided access to 12 additional lots in the industrial park where the company, which manufactures automobile headlamps, is located. The access made the lots more attractive to other industries looking for sites to build facilities.

The amount of the award takes into consideration the number of jobs created. About \$6 million in Economic Development Grants were awarded in 2010.

Competitive Grants are awarded annually in several categories including County, Large City, Small City, and a new category, Very Small City. Because the number of applications and the amount requested always exceeds the available funding, grants are awarded based on several criteria, including the number of low- and moderate-income families benefitting and impact on health and safety.

Last year the governor awarded \$17.1 million in CDBG funds for improvements in 46 towns, cities and counties.

Community Enhancement Grants are used to make improvements that upgrade the quality of life in a community. Projects may include anything from installing fire hydrants to building senior centers or recreational facilities. In the past fiscal year 18 communities were

awarded enhancement grants totaling about \$3.9 million. All the grants were \$250,000 or less.

Alabama received additional CDBG funding for disaster recovery and grants were awarded primarily to communities along the state's coastal area that suffered damage during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

While most Community Development Block Grants meet the immediate needs of a community, **Planning Grants** help cities and towns avoid future problems and prepare for their community's success. Planning grants may serve as a first step in revitalizing a downtown or assessing future needs and are usually \$50,000 or less.

The CED section also is home to the **Emergency Shelter Grant Program** and the **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program**.

Emergency Shelter Grants provide assistance to homeless persons and victims of domestic violence by offering them safe and sufficient shelter. ESG funding is used to upgrade homeless facilities and domestic abuse shelters.

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program provides temporary financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services for individuals and families who have lost, or are about to lose, their homes.

Alabama's Homeless Prevention program received a \$13.3 million boost through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to assist victims of the economic downturn.



CDBG funding helped to restore and improve public services in coastal Alabama after two major hurricanes.

Community Services Programs

COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTION HELPS LOW-INCOME, ELDERLY, DISABLED RESIDENTS

ADECA's Community Services Section administers programs that build stronger Alabama communities by improving the quality of life for low-income citizens.

Paying high home energy bills for heat during winter months and for cooling in the summer is a challenge for low-income families even in the best of economic times. When a job loss or other difficult circumstance occurs, the burden of high energy bills can become impossible for the families to bear. Fortunately, the **Alabama Weatherization Program** gives many low-income residents some relief by making their homes more energy efficient.

Since mid-2009 ADECA's Community Services section has awarded \$62.4 million in weatherization funds made available to the state through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As of October 2010, weatherization work had been performed on 2,797 homes using Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds with a total of 6,667 homes expected to be weatherized by 2012.



Weatherization Works

The funds were awarded to a network of community action and other agencies that administer the program locally. The program gives priority to the elderly, those with disabilities and low-income residents with small children. Houses that qualify for weatherization assistance are tested to determine the most cost-effective measures needed. Typical improvements include adding extra insulation, sealing leaks in ductwork, performing repairs and tune-ups to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and replacing incandescent lights with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

"We do a lot of improvements that families couldn't afford to have done on their own, and it makes a difference," said Toney Pitts, housing and weatherization coordinator for the Community Action Partnership of Huntsville, Madison and Limestone Counties.

To ensure weatherization services and other assistance is provided more efficiently and fairly

to Alabamians in need, the Community Services Section implemented a new software-based management system for community action agencies in fiscal year 2010. The agencies use the software to capture essential client information, determine program eligibility, manage enrollment and track results as services are provided. More than 180,000 Alabamians received assistance through community action agencies since the software was implemented from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.



Adequate insulation helps save energy costs.

While weatherization efforts got a recent boost from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ADECA's Community Services programs have been providing vital assistance to thousands of Alabamians for many years. Since 2003, the Weatherization Assistance program has helped more than 7,000 low-income and elderly residents reduce their utility bills. Some 736,000 low-income households got help paying utility bills through the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** administered by ADECA. **Community Service Block Grants** have provided funding to help thousands of low-income families achieve self-sufficiency. The grants, which are awarded



Sealing leaks is essential for weatherizing a home.

on a local level, help low-income persons find employment, improve their education and offer assistance with obtaining housing and emergency services. Assistance is also offered through teaching low-income persons how to better manage their budget and how to improve their health through proper diet.

Office of Workforce Development

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS PREPARE ALABAMA WORKERS FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For communities to thrive economically they must have a skilled workforce ready to take advantage of job opportunities that come when existing businesses expand or when new industries move in.

ADECA's Office of Workforce Development administers programs that ensure Alabama workers have the skills they need to qualify for high-paying jobs in new or expanding industries. This report includes examples from the past several years of how the division has helped Alabamians take advantage of such opportunities. Other examples show how OWD helps workers boost skills to improve their employers' competitiveness. OWD programs also assist workers who have lost their jobs due to business closings, layoffs or natural disasters.

More than 90,000 Alabamians have received job-training assistance since 2003 through **Workforce Investment Act** programs administered by ADECA and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development. The assistance, provided primarily through the **Alabama Career Center System**, helped participants learn new job skills to get back on their feet and on a path to a brighter economic future.

A \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor led to the establishment of the **Alabama Energy Sector Partnership** program in 2010. The program will train up to 1,422 Alabamians to qualify for jobs in emerging industries focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2012. Participants will learn the skills needed to qualify for employment in one of five energy-related areas: energy-efficient construction and retrofits, renewable electric power, energy-efficient and advanced-drive-train vehicle manufacturing, biofuels and energy-efficiency assessment.

Incumbent Worker Training grants administered by the division helped more than 12,000 currently-employed workers at 223 Alabama businesses gain new skills since 2003. The grants helped businesses cover the costs of training employees

to streamline work, reduce waste, enhance safety, improve time management and eliminate unnecessary expenses.

Muller Company in Albertville was awarded a \$50,000 Incumbent Worker Training grant in 2010 to provide for training workers to improve safety. The company is one of the largest manufacturers of fire hydrants in the world.

"This grant has helped reinforce the safety culture in our facility," said Kevin Smith, Muller's



Muller Company in Albertville, a manufacturer of fire hydrants, received a \$50,000 Incumbent Worker Training grant in 2010 to provide safety training for workers.

safety director. "We have implemented many of the program's recommendations and believe this program will have long-lasting benefits."

Lafarge Building Materials Inc. in Calera also benefitted from a \$50,000 Incumbent Worker Training grant in 2010. The company manufactures approximately 1.5 million tons of cement and mines nearly 12.5 million tons of cement materials and aggregate rock annually. The training helped production employees better troubleshoot hydraulics issues in the plant, reducing production downtime. Other training enhanced the skills of the company's electricians and prepared potential employees in other departments to replace retiring electricians.

In the past several years, Alabama has been

challenged by a global economic downturn as well as natural and man-made disasters that have had a negative impact on employment. To cope with the adjustments necessary to meet such challenges, an ADECA-funded multi-agency **Rapid Response Team** has assisted 63,017 workers impacted by business closings or layoffs since 2003. A mobile **Alabama Career Center** was created to travel to areas impacted by layoffs, business closings or natural disasters and provide workers on-site assistance filing for unemployment compensation and finding new jobs. To give additional support

Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005 destroyed property, created infrastructure problems for local governments and disrupted the jobs of many Alabamians. To help these residents get back on their feet, OWD administered more than \$5.7 million in disaster aid to affected counties. The money provided temporary jobs to clean up the devastation caused by the storms and funded short-term job training for victims displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

OWD also helps Alabama youth prepare for the workforce. More than 3,700 youth gained summer



OWD administered funds to provide temporary jobs for workers along Alabama's coast displaced by two horrific hurricanes and the Gulf oil spill which caused many businesses to shut down or suspend production.

in areas disproportionately impacted by the economic downturn, the division secured \$1.4 million in economic stimulus funds to provide on-the-job training opportunities that will help dislocated workers develop skills to enhance their prospects for long-term employment.

ADECA was allocated \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor's **National Emergency Grant** fund in 2010 to help Alabama workers affected by the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Individuals who are unlikely to be able to return to their previous industry will get training for a new career, and assistance also will be available for business owners.

jobs at 1,131 public and nonprofit worksites in 2009 and 2010 thanks the **Summer Youth Employment Program** administered by the division with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Worksite coordinators also served as mentors for the youth and provided them with opportunities to develop leadership skills.

Wise guidance and counseling for youth is something that the division supports throughout the year. Through **Mentor Alabama**, OWD helps affiliated organizations across the state recruit and screen mentors for youth programs by paying the costs of criminal background checks.

Office of Water Resources

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES SEEKS TO GUARD STATE'S WATER SUPPLY AND MINIMIZE FLOOD DAMAGE

Water is essential to life and critical to Alabama's agricultural and industrial economy. The central mission of ADECA's Office of Water Resources is to ensure that the state maintains a plentiful water supply for current and future residents, businesses and industries. A plentiful supply will help Alabama communities thrive well into the future.

The office works to ensure that Alabama's ground and surface water resources are managed in a manner that is in the best interest of the state by recommending policies, conducting technical studies, implementing programs and representing

with Georgia when a federal court ruled that the level of water being withdrawn for Atlanta from Georgia's Lake Lanier was illegal under federal law. The ruling supported Alabama's position that only Congress could approve such a massive use of water by the Atlanta area. OWR's **Interstate Support Program** provided extensive technical analysis of water allocation issues that was essential to Alabama's success.

"This analysis is critical to reaching a fair and equitable distribution of water produced by the river system that flows into Alabama from Lake Lanier," OWR Director Brian Atkins said.

Georgia is appealing the ruling.

While water is essential to life and to the economy, it also possesses a power that can damage and destroy homes and businesses. The economic devastation caused by flood damage can be overwhelming for residents who are affected. OWR's **Floodplain Management Program** helps safeguard Alabama residents from such floods by pinpointing areas most susceptible to flooding.

By the end of 2010, OWR had digitally mapped

floodplain areas in 66 of Alabama's 67 counties for the National Flood Insurance Program. Digital maps for the last county are expected to be finalized in 2011, completing the mapping project that began in 2003. OWR prepared the digital maps as part of its duties as state manager of the National Flood Insurance Program, which offers insurance at reasonable rates to homeowners and landowners provided they follow guidelines in-



The Office of Water Resource's Floodplain Management Program helps to determine and map areas most susceptible to flooding.

Alabama's intra- and interstate water interests. Established by the Legislature in 1993, OWR has long provided vital support for advancing Alabama's position in water disputes with neighboring states. The office monitors drought and water-use data and helps protect residents from water's destructive force.

In July 2009 Alabama achieved a major victory in the long-standing water allocation disagreement

tended to reduce the risk of property damage.

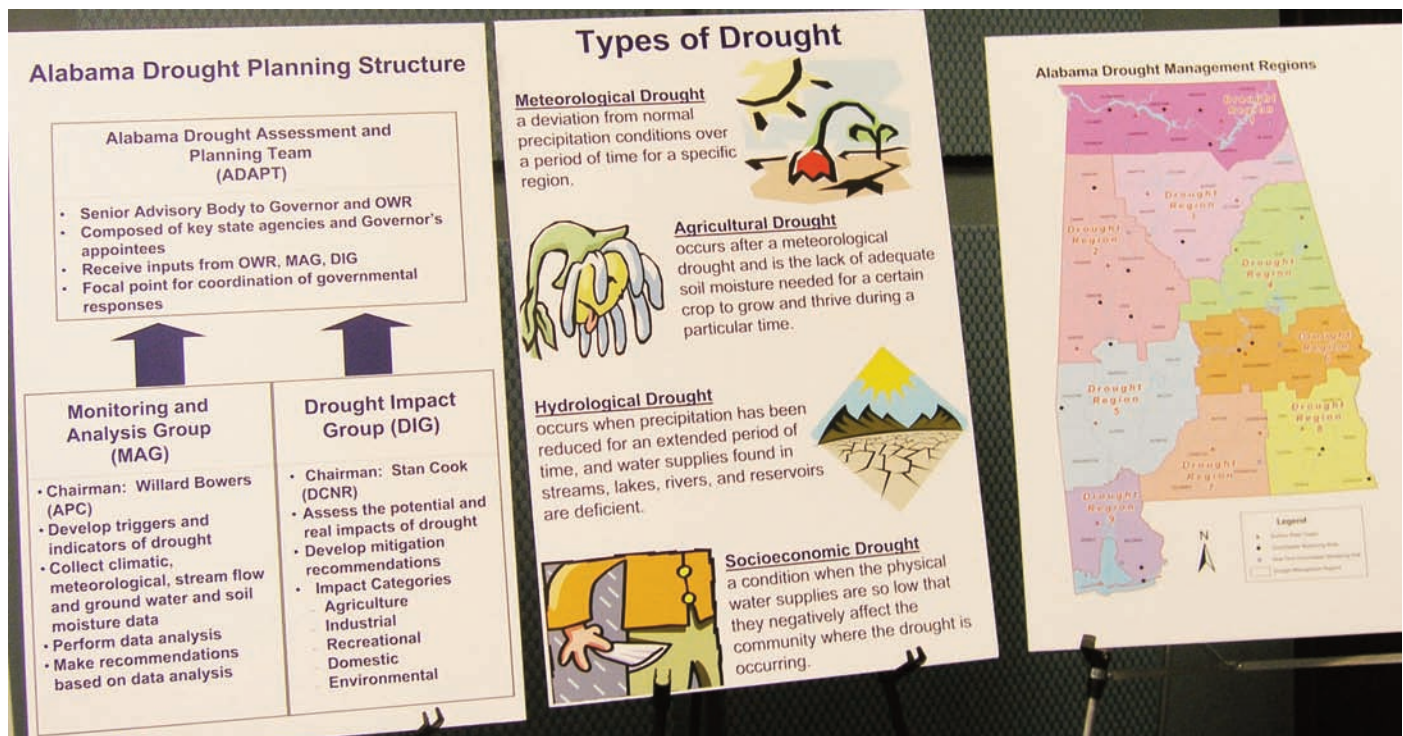
Rivers, streams and other freshwater bodies are not the only source of flooding in Alabama. Coastal areas of Baldwin and Mobile counties are vulnerable to storm surge caused by hurricanes and tropical storms. OWR is analyzing data to complete a coastal floodplain mapping project to determine the areas of Baldwin and Mobile counties that are most prone to storm-surge damage. The project, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is expected to be completed by 2013.

The office also is working on the first digital snapshot of the state's public water systems. Once completed, the **digital map of Alabama water systems** will help water managers expedite the location of leaks, identify areas not currently supplied with public water, and facilitate water sharing between systems during shortages. The map also will serve as a tool for industrial recruiters needing to identify water systems that could meet the demands of a new business or industry.

OWR's **Water Management Program** collects water data from municipal water systems, industrial facilities and other users of large amounts of water to create a clear picture of water use throughout the state. In 2009 the office published the **Alabama Water Use Report** to help local water system managers make sound decisions

in the face of growing demand and to provide a comprehensive understanding of water use and water availability. The report found that power generation accounted for 87 percent of total surface water withdrawals in 2005. The largest total water withdrawals occurred in Limestone, Jackson, Colbert and Mobile counties to meet the cooling needs at thermoelectric power plants. Water withdrawals for public supply were 802 million gallons per day in 2005, with Mobile, Jefferson, Montgomery, Madison and Walker counties withdrawing the most. An "eWater" management application was implemented by OWR in 2010 to improve the water-use reporting process.

OWR published the state's first drought management plan in 2004 providing an essential foundation for response to the record-setting 2006-2008 drought. OWR closely monitored the drought's impact on the state and ensured that industries and water systems were kept informed of the changing conditions. The office also convened the **Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team**, a specialized group to guide drought management activities in the state. As dry conditions prevailed in the summer and fall of 2010, OWR again resumed drought monitoring activities.



ADECA's Office of Water Resources monitors and assesses the impact of drought conditions throughout Alabama.

Energy Division

ENERGY DIVISION HELPS ALABAMA SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

The mission of ADECA's Energy Division is to help Alabamians to reduce energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency and adopting renewable-energy technologies.

As schools, governments, businesses and residents look for ways to stretch already tight budgets, the Energy Division is helping more and more of them discover that energy savings equals cost savings. This report includes examples of how assistance provided by the division over the past several years has created savings in energy and money throughout Alabama.

to help 30 municipal and county governments and 11 nonprofit agencies reduce energy costs. The organizations cut utility costs by upgrading the energy efficiency of their buildings and equipment.

The division also awarded \$4.95 million in **State Energy Program** grants to help 20 school systems purchase and install efficient heating and air conditioning, lighting and windows.

Huguley Elementary in Chambers County benefitted from a \$134,350 grant. The grant enabled the Chambers County Board of Education to purchase and install 29 energy-efficient heating,

air conditioning and ventilation units at the school. The board also replaced 61 windows at Huguley with well-insulated double-paned models. The school system's maintenance staff installed the HVAC units during the summer while the windows were installed later.

With record high temperatures being recorded well into autumn, teachers and students noticed a substantial improvement.

"With the new air conditioner, my classroom has been very pleasant in this blistering heat since

school started, and that has made it a more comfortable environment for the children," teacher Kelli Howard said in September.

School system officials estimate the improvements will save the school \$12,922 per year in energy costs.

"Previously the heat just radiated through the old windows and as soon as the air conditioner would cut off, the room would be hot again,"



The ENERGY STAR® program helps homeowners save money through appliance rebates and reduced utility costs.

Schools and local-government services are cornerstones of strong communities. The Energy Division has helped dozens of school systems, municipal governments and nonprofit agencies make energy-saving changes during the 2010 fiscal year that will add thousands of dollars to their budgets for years to come.

The division awarded **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants** totaling \$9.8 million

teacher Nancy Baldwin said. “Now, it’s pleasant in my classroom all the time. My room looks better and feels better thanks to the new windows and new central units.”

The Energy Division also is encouraging the use of cleaner burning biodiesel in Alabama school buses through the **Biofuels for Schools Program**. The program provides up to \$2,500 to help Alabama public school systems cover the cost of cleaning existing diesel fuel storage tanks in preparation for storing biodiesel.

Additional assistance is available through the **Local Government Energy Loan Program**. The program makes zero-interest-rate loans available to help municipal and county governments, K-12 schools, colleges and universities pay the up-front costs of energy-saving improvements.

While local governments and schools provide services essential to any community, businesses and industries provide the jobs and economic impact that enables Alabama’s communities to thrive. The Energy Division is helping Alabama companies make energy-saving changes that add revenue and help them better compete in today’s global economy.

A \$60 million revolving loan program started in December 2010, **AlabamaSAVES** is helping the state’s existing industrial and commercial businesses finance energy-saving upgrades. Low-interest-rate loans of \$250,000 to \$4 million are available with loan repayments structured to be less than the energy cost savings.

The **Biomass Energy Interest Subsidy Program** helped 13 Alabama companies use renewable energy, saving \$22.4 million in utility costs in the last eight years. The **Alabama Industrial Energy Efficiency Program** uses energy audits to help Alabama manufacturers improve their profitability by reducing their energy costs. The division has helped diverse groups including automotive parts suppliers, the agriculture industry and others find ways to save energy and cut costs through energy audits or renewable energy projects.

The division also is helping state government find ways to save money by improving the energy efficiency of state-owned buildings and facilities. A \$21 million State Energy Program grant awarded in late 2009 is helping the Alabama Department of Corrections to improve energy

efficiency and cut operating expenses at 30 correctional facilities. The division assisted the state Finance Department with a contract to perform utility invoice audits resulting in \$3,055,365 in savings to date.

In 2010, the division also provided direct assistance to Alabama residents who replaced their energy-hogging appliances with new energy efficient models. The \$4.1 million **Alabama Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program** provided more than 31,000 rebates to Alabama residents who purchased Energy Star qualified



ADECA's Karen Clifton explains Alabama's consumer rebate program for ENERGY STAR® appliances.

refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, freezers and room air conditioners.

The rebate program also provided a boost for Alabama retailers. Many stores opened early and offered additional discounts on appliances eligible for rebates to lure eager shoppers on the rebate program’s April 19 start date.

“We’ve heard many positive reports from Alabama retailers about big boosts in appliance sales since the program started,” said ADECA’s Karen Clifton, who administered the program.

To spread the news about the strong economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the division participated in several home expos, conferences and trade shows in fiscal year 2010. The **Energy Education Program** provides resources and opportunities for K-12 students to learn about energy conservation measures that can be used in and out of the classroom. Students may pass along the energy-saving measures they learn about in the classroom to their family.

Surplus Property

SURPLUS PROPERTY HELPS STRETCH BUDGETS

When the economic waters get rough, it's good to know there is a safe harbor.

ADECA's Surplus Property Division has operated as a refuge of sorts in good and bad times for Alabama governments and nonprofit organizations by offering state and federal surplus equipment at greatly reduced costs. The equipment

is a disaster. After Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, Surplus Property transferred more than \$2 million in property to help that area. Much of the equipment, including generators, tractors and dump trucks, was transferred directly to Bayou LaBatre, Dauphin Island and Mobile County.

The Division acquired 962 travel trailers that were used during Katrina disaster relief by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Many of the trailers were transferred to sheriff's departments, volunteer fire departments, municipal governments and other organizations in Alabama. The trailers are serving a variety of purposes including use as mobile command centers and portable training classrooms.

While serving as an equipment and supply outlet for governments and nonprofit organizations, Surplus Property also opens its doors to the public at least three times a year by holding public auctions. Items also are sold worldwide through online auctions.

Revenues have increased by more than \$100,000 per year since initiating sales via online auction sites such as eBay and GovDeals.

not only saves money for governments and agencies with limited resources, it also enables them to provide services that greatly benefit Alabama residents.

Surplus Property has warehouses in Montgomery and Eva.

The Surplus Property Division recently moved to a new location in Montgomery that provides twice the space of its previous location. Unlike the previous warehouse which was leased, this facility is being purchased and will save money and eliminate rental costs. The division's warehouse in Eva is already owned by the state.

The Montgomery location also provides a base for the state Emergency Management Agency to centrally store equipment used for disaster relief.

The Surplus Property Division often comes to the aid of communities following



Surplus Property holds public auctions several times a year.

Passport to Fitness

ADECA PROGRAM COMBINES TRAVEL WITH FITNESS

Encouraging Americans to live healthier by exercising more has become a nationwide challenge in recent years. An ADECA program is helping our state to address that concern while boosting local economies at the same time.

The Passport to Fitness program, launched in 2010, instills fun into becoming physically fit by encouraging Alabamians to walk trails throughout Alabama that are listed in a guide. A 150-page booklet and related website feature 85 walks ranging from easy to rigorous.

Participants who complete trails can visit a location near the trail to have their trail book stamped. Much like the popular volksmarch sport in Europe, the object is to walk as many trails as possible and complete the passport stamp page.

The trail guide covers more than 60 Alabama communities and state parks. Trail routes may take you through historic downtown areas, rustic

woodland paths or around simple looping trails at local parks.

In addition to encouraging exercise, the program exposes participants to cultural and historical attractions, unique geographic features and natural habitat.

As a side benefit, the program encourages people to enjoy the hospitality of areas of Alabama they might otherwise not experience. Local restaurants and other merchants also benefit from the extra business.

The website, www.adeca.alabama.gov/C4/PTF/, provides a wide variety of information involving the trails, communities and the program.

Additional communities and trails will likely be added to the program with updates being incorporated into the online version of the trail guide available at the website.

Alabama Advantage

PROGRAM DRAWS RETIREES, WORKERS TO ALABAMA

For many years, the Alabama Advantage program has invited retirees to make Alabama their new home, but its purpose has gradually broadened as new industries build and existing ones expand in the state.

With the growth and expansion of automobile manufacturers and suppliers, aerospace and aviation industries and other industries, the program has been broadened to encourage workers, particularly those with specialized skills, to move to Alabama to fill high-demand jobs.

The program includes a nationally distributed annual magazine, a website and twice-a-year exhibitions to tout the advantages of living in Alabama.

The largest exhibition is held on the Gulf Coast followed later in the year by an event in Montgomery.

Held at the state Capitol, the Montgomery exhibition not only promotes the state, it also becomes an exercise in civic pride as participating communities take the opportunity to honor Alabamians who serve in the military.

Drawing retirees from other areas remains a primary focus of the program for several reasons. Retirees not only help local economies by spending money, they also provide valuable volunteer services that improve the quality of community life and make Alabama an even better place to live and work.

The program's website, www.Alabama-Advantage.com, offers a one-stop service for obtaining information on Alabama, its regions and communities.

Black Belt Action Commission

COMMISSION IMPROVES LIVES IN STATE'S BLACK BELT REGION

For decades, the counties of Alabama's Black Belt Region have lagged behind while other areas of the state have prospered. The area stretching across the south-central part of the state has been defined by low graduation rates, high unemployment, extreme poverty, poor access to medical care and declining population.

Formed in 2004, the Black Belt Action Commission was charged with the task of improving living standards in the 12-county area. Thirteen committees were created under the Black Belt Commission banner to address specific problems in the area and reinvigorate the region.

Eighty-six new and expanding economic development projects have resulted in the creation of 3,800 new jobs in the region since the commission was started, according to the Alabama Development Office.

In addition to new jobs, the commission has helped raise awareness of the region's assets. Recognizing its attributes, volunteers have sought to convert the area's history, diversity and uniqueness into a tourist destination.

Black Belt Treasures in Camden was established to showcase the area's cultural arts in a retail outlet. The store sells arts and crafts, food products and furniture created by Black Belt residents as well as books relating to the region. It attracts customers from throughout Alabama and the Southeast.

Working with the Alabama Tourism Department, the commission's Marketing and Tourism Committee developed the Alabama Black Belt Natural and Heritage Trail to highlight historical attractions and museums, recreational and wilderness areas, parks, trails and restaurants.

Alabama Public Radio and the University of West Alabama in Livingston have climbed on board to highlight the region's musical talent with the Sucarnochee Revue, a weekend radio show.

Private physicians and health-care specialists teamed up with the commission to provide health screenings and follow-up treatments for students throughout the region. Wellness fairs and mobile health clinics were held in a number of Black Belt counties. Also a rural medical scholarship program

was resurrected after years of dormancy to help Black Belt students pay medical school tuition. The program requires recipients to provide service in a Black Belt county for a designated amount of time once they obtain their medical degree.

Community Development Block Grants along with other grants administered by ADECA, including the Delta Regional Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission, have been awarded to Black Belt counties to improve infrastructure, raise the quality of life and attract new industries and produce jobs.



The Black Belt Action Commission helped tout the area's unique culture and talent like the Gee's Bend quilters.

Counties included in the region are Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Marion, Pickens, Sumter and Wilcox. The 12 counties are primarily rural and located in an area known for its fertile dark soil. The Black Belt Action Commission also assisted some adjacent counties that suffer from problems similar to those that challenge the Black Belt region.

Program Integrity

PROGRAM INTEGRITY ENSURES ADHERANCE TO GRANT RULES

At a time when public funds have diminished, full accountability of where and how those tax dollars are being spent is more important than ever.

ADECA's Program Integrity Unit ensures that grant recipients abide by state and federal laws regarding the use of public funds. The unit follows up on any complaints that grantees might not be in full compliance with grant requirements.

The unit also reviews grant applications to determine if estimates and calculations on projects are on target and based on realistic data.

Recently, the unit found another way to assist low-budget government and nonprofit agencies receive more for their money. Through Program

Integrity's work, small towns and agencies can now buy equipment from ADECA's Surplus Property Division on a payment plan.

By extending payments, agencies are able to purchase badly needed large equipment items like tractors, generators or vehicles to help them better serve the public. Although Surplus offers items to governments at greatly reduced costs, even those deals are often a burden when operating on small, tight budgets.

In many cases the equipment must be purchased because of emergency situations. Governments and agencies that previously would have been forced to borrow money or cut services now have a better option available.

Audit

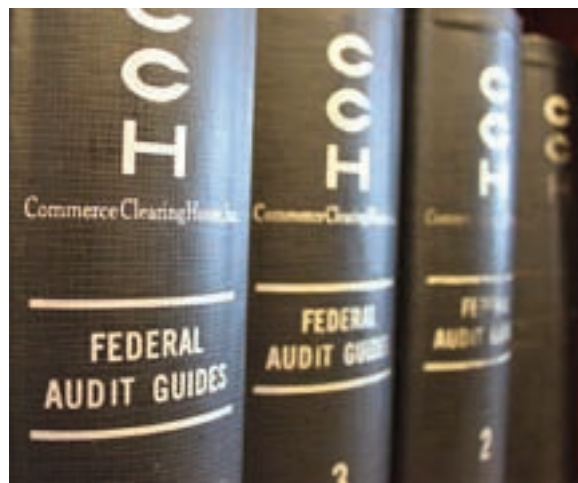
AUDIT SECTION PROVIDES GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TAXPAYERS

The hundreds of grants issued annually through ADECA are vital to Alabama cities, counties, nonprofit organizations and citizens, but just as important is making sure the funds are spent for their intended purposes. ADECA's Audit Section does its part to keep the agency and its grant recipients accountable to taxpayers.

Grant applications that are submitted for ADECA funding detail how the applicant will use funding to benefit Alabama and its residents. After funds are expended and a project is completed, follow-up inquiries

are conducted to ensure the project was carried out as specified and that all funds were handled appropriately.

Certified independent auditors are often called upon by the grant recipient to audit their records. ADECA's audit section regularly conducts workshops and seminars to ensure independent auditors know the basics of compliance with state and federal regulations involving grants. The Audit Section works with other ADECA program staff and often will accompany them at hearings to explain required procedures.



Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS SAVE LIVES, ARREST CRIMINALS AND HELP VICTIMS

Public safety is a prerequisite to economic development. Providing support for local law enforcement is another way that ADECA helps communities to grow and prosper. ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division helps police departments and sheriffs' offices to obtain needed equipment, keep specialized task forces fighting crime, remove dangerous drivers from the roads and help victims who have suffered abuse.

With limited staff and equipment, keeping Alabama communities safe can sometimes be a daunting responsibility, especially in smaller jurisdictions. ADECA grants help law enforcement agencies to buy equipment and technology that make officers safer, more effective and more efficient.

Because the enforcement of drug laws can be especially challenging, ADECA helps fund multi-jurisdictional drug task forces that investigate, arrest and prosecute drug offenders. Task force agents also find and dismantle dangerous laboratories that are used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Other ADECA grants help fund professionals who serve and protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse while also prosecuting the offenders. Child advocacy and rape crisis centers across the state depend upon grants from ADECA, as well as private donations, to help crime victims recover from abuse. The centers work closely with law enforcement agencies while helping victims with needs such as safe shelter, crisis intervention, counseling and court advocacy.

ADECA grants provide a big boost to traffic safety in Alabama by funding overtime pay so that more officers can patrol the roads and highways during holidays and other peak travel periods. Stepped-up enforcement has helped significantly reduce the number of vehicle crashes and fatalities.

To ensure more effective medical care in the event of a crash, ADECA has worked with regional traffic safety offices and local officials to encourage adoption of the Yellow Dot Program. The program provides first responders with health information about victims in crashes or other automobile emergencies.

Participants in the free program receive a "Yellow Dot" decal, a "Yellow Dot" folder and an information form with the participant's name, an identifying photo, emergency contact information, personal physicians' information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies and medications being used. A "Yellow Dot" decal on the driver's side rear window of a vehicle alerts first responders to check in the glove compartment for the corresponding "Yellow Dot" folder.

By providing access to advanced technology and research, ADECA is helping law enforcement officers become more effective and efficient.

ADECA funds the compilation of traffic-related information by the Center for Advanced Public Safety at the University of Alabama. The center provides data that pinpoint areas of high risk for traffic crashes and enable troopers and local law enforcement agencies to focus their patrols where they are most needed. The information also is used by highway planners to eliminate hazards and make traffic safety improvements. Work done by the center has helped the state to strengthen traffic safety laws, save lives and reduce injuries on Alabama highways.

Traffic data can be analyzed more quickly and effectively thanks to the eCrash or electronic crash reporting system. The system enables law enforcement officers to prepare and electronically file detailed crash information. Because paperwork is eliminated and reports are automatically transmitted to headquarters, officers can spend more time patrolling highways.

Although the eCrash program is relatively new, the data show a growing trend of distracted driving that, according to *The Birmingham News*, is "the drunk driving of the 21st Century."

During a recent 13-month period, about 1,400 crashes were reported to have involved drivers using cell phones or other electronic devices. Not all police departments in Alabama had converted to the eCrash system during that period, so actual numbers are likely higher than reported. Even this limited data from the eCrash system

has provided sufficient reason for many Alabama municipalities to ban texting, cell phone use or both.

ADECA grants also helped fund the development of an electronic traffic citation system that helps law enforcement officers save time and improve the accuracy of records by eliminating the need for manual data entry. The system allows officers to swipe a driver license, click the specific traffic violation on the in-car computer and print out a ticket.

To use the eCrash and eCite programs, police

vehicles must be equipped with computers and printers. ADECA grants have helped law enforcement agencies purchase this equipment and other items such as digital fingerprinting scanners and tasers. Other grants have allowed police and sheriffs' departments to purchase vehicles, weapons and other essential equipment.

Supporting local law enforcement agencies is part of ADECA's mission to build better communities and another way we work to encourage economic development.

ConnectingALABAMA

CONNECTINGALABAMA WORKS TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE BY INCREASING BROADBAND ACCESS

Without reliable and affordable high-speed Internet service, communities are unable to take full advantage of opportunities in economic development, health care, education and many other areas of life. Internet access can be a factor that businesses use to determine where to locate. Lack of access can hinder the ability of employers to attract qualified employees, job seekers to improve their skills, and communities to promote themselves as desirable places for business expansion and tourism.

While broadband, a common term for high-speed Internet connections, is generally available in the state's metropolitan areas, access is lacking for many rural residents and businesses. ADECA's ConnectingALABAMA broadband initiative is trying to bridge that digital divide by partnering with community leaders to remove barriers limiting broadband access and by working to strengthen consumer demand. Until there is adequate demand, most service providers are reluctant to offer high-speed Internet in underserved areas.

Established in 2008 and brought under ADECA in 2009, the initiative is funded through a grant to the state by the U.S. Department of Commerce. ConnectingALABAMA worked in 2010 to produce the first detailed picture of broadband use and availability in the state and established relationships with community leaders in Alabama's 12 regional planning commission areas.

"Broadband, once considered a luxury, is now a necessity for economic development, job creation and maintaining a competitive edge in the global

economy," ConnectingALABAMA executive director Jessica Dent said. "ConnectingALABAMA is working to ensure we have the high-speed Internet infrastructure that will enable our businesses and residents to thrive for decades to come."

In July 2010, ConnectingALABAMA published an interactive map of high-speed Internet availability in Alabama at www.connectingalabama.gov. The map allows users to enter a specific address and determine which, if any, broadband providers serve that location.

To encourage demand, the initiative created several short, educational videos describing the benefits of broadband availability for all Alabamians and how broadband communications can create stronger, healthier and more economically vital communities. Libraries across the state made the videos available to patrons without Internet access. Library computers could be used to view the videos online or a DVD version was available. After watching the videos, residents were urged to complete a short survey informing ConnectingALABAMA of their views about broadband.

By the end of 2010, ConnectingALABAMA had conducted kickoff meetings in each of the state's 12 regional planning commission areas. The meetings brought government, community and business leaders together to develop plans that identify local barriers and create solutions that will encourage broadband infrastructure development. The initiative will hold follow-up meetings throughout 2011.

Appalachian Regional Commission

ARC HELPS PROVIDE JOBS, IMPROVE LIVES IN REGION

The Appalachian Regional Commission has been working to improve lives in central and north Alabama for 45 years by helping to create new jobs, spur economic development, build roads and infrastructure, advance education and promote wellness through better health care.

Established by Congress in 1965, ARC serves a portion of 13-states along the Appalachian mountain chain stretching from southern New York to northern Mississippi. In Alabama, 37 counties are included in the ARC service area and are eligible for funding through the program.

ARC is a partnership of federal, state and local governments working together to address needs on a regional and local level. Governors from each of the states, along with a federal co-chair appointed by the president, comprise the Commission and provide oversight.

The director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs serves as the governor's alternate ARC representative, and ADECA administers the program within the state.

To help coordinate ARC programs in Alabama, eight multi-county local development districts have been designated to assist local governments to identify needs and apply for ARC funding.

At the governor's recommendation, the Appalachian Regional Commission awarded about \$4.7 million in 2010 to fund 36 projects in Alabama.

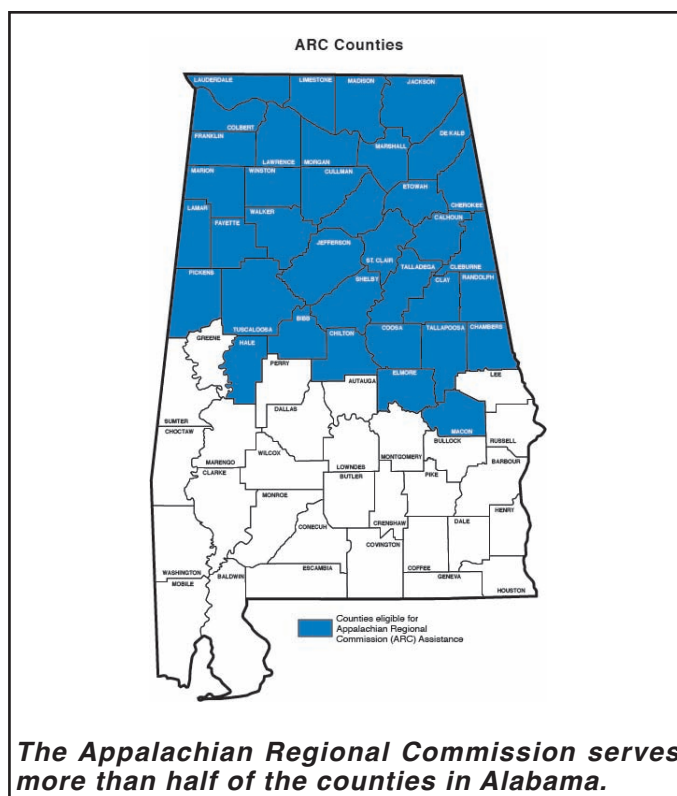
A \$100,000 ARC grant, for example, is providing infrastructure enabling the relocation and expansion of Eagles' Wings, a nonprofit organization near Tuscaloosa that provides day habilitation and vocational services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Once the new complex is completed in 2014, it will provide housing for up to 16 special needs clients, allowing them to live as independently as possible. The facility will include a vocational center and greenhouse and will allow the expansion of a recycling business that provides employment to some of its clients. With the expansion, the organization hopes to triple its workforce to 90 people.

"Grants are especially huge because they pay for specific projects we're working on, and running utilities to the site is obviously imperative to us for getting onto our new land as soon as we can," Eagles' Wings spokeswoman Connie Stokes said.

A \$151,125 grant to the University of Alabama helped fund the Export Trade Financing Program which assists small and medium-sized companies in the state to market and sell their products internationally. The program includes seminars and workshops to teach businesses about methods to sell their goods to foreign markets.

ARC grants often provide companion funding to support another ADECA program: Community Development Block Grants. By combining resources, job creation projects and other critical needs can be more effectively addressed. ARC grants sometimes supplement funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist communities with major projects like upgrading water services or repairing problems with sewer systems.



Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs

REAP PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED AREAS OF ALABAMA

Opening a business anywhere involves risk. Opening a business in an economically distressed area can amplify that risk.

The Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs cannot eliminate the risk, but this section of ADECA can offer expertise and assistance to help business owners improve their chances of success. REAP helps eligible businesses to qualify for tax credits and exemptions if the business provides jobs in low-income or economically distressed communities.

In addition to federal tax incentives, there are state and local tax credits, exemptions and other incentives provided by the **Alabama Enterprise Zone Act**. Coordinated by REAP, the Act assists businesses that locate or expand in economically depressed areas. The goal is to provide jobs and encourage economic development in communities located within an Enterprise Zone.

REAP's **Office of Minority Business Enterprise** certifies minority- or woman-owned businesses. Certification helps owners gain access to training and contract opportunities and provides recognition that helps owners to market their products or services.

The ADECA Director and the REAP manager represent the Governor of Alabama on the board of the **Delta Regional Authority**. DRA is a federally sponsored partnership created by Congress in 2000 to improve living conditions and map out plans to provide jobs and strengthen the economies of 252 counties and parishes in eight southern states.

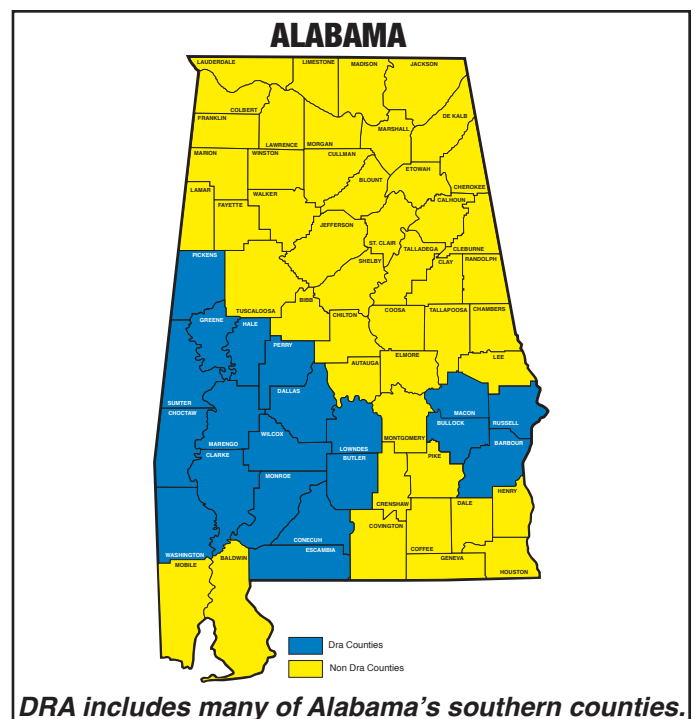
The 20 Alabama counties that are within the region are located primarily in the southwest part of the state. REAP works with the counties to secure grants and other assistance from DRA. The eligible counties are Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo,

Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Russell, Sumter, Washington and Wilcox.

With support from DRA, ADECA's Office of Water Resources developed digitized maps of water systems in some of the counties. DRA funding also helped provide medical and dental assistance to residents of Lowndes County who were unable to afford a visit to the doctor. Other grants have focused on economic development through infrastructure and transportation improvements.

During the last several years REAP has supported the work of the Alabama Black Belt Action Commission to improve living conditions in the 12-county Black Belt region. Named for its fertile black soil, the once prosperous band of south Alabama counties has suffered for decades from high unemployment, poverty, and school drop-out rates as well as a lack of adequate health care.

REAP also coordinates the **Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)** program.



Recreational Programs

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS MEET ALABAMA'S GROWING DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND BOOST TOURISM

For decades, ADECA's Recreational Programs section has been rolling out the green carpet to Alabama's outdoors; but in recent years the carpet has taken on a more varied hue.

Responding to public demand, Recreational Programs has ventured off the beaten path of

offer trails for hiking and horseback riding.

Additional trail complexes being constructed near Anniston and Talladega will offer Alabama and the Southeast some of the most challenging courses in the nation.

"Not only are we filling a niche for a growing sport, we also are encouraging a whole new generation to take part in healthy activities," said Rob Grant, director of ADECA's Recreational Programs. "There are plenty of studies that indicate recreation with motorized vehicles requires strenuous use of muscles and reduces stress; it also fulfills our mission to encourage people to experience outdoor Alabama."

Alabamians are rediscovering our state's abundant waterways thanks to the Alabama Scenic River Trail, a 631-mile designed route along the state's rivers, lakes, streams and large creeks. Grants awarded by ADECA have been used to build or renovate boat launches and piers, improve accessibility and provide signage along the water trail.



ADECA has assisted with the Alabama Scenic River Trail which encourages use and exploration of the state's waterways.

walking trails and playgrounds to include high adventure trails for motorized and non-motorized vehicles and horseback riding. With ADECA's aid, outdoor enthusiasts also are finding adventure traveling Alabama's scenic waterways.

During the past decade more than \$17 million has been allocated to build, expand or improve about 240 park or trail projects in the state. While walking paths, ball fields and parks remain a major emphasis, ADECA also is helping develop a number of recreational projects that are less traditional.

Stony Lonesome, a 1,456-acre off-road vehicle park in Cullman County, and Minooka Park, offering 366 acres for off-road vehicles in Chilton County, are two of the more popular projects funded by ADECA to meet the growing demand of enthusiasts of two- and four-wheel motorized vehicles and mountain biking. The two parks also



Grants from ADECA's Recreational Programs help provide playgrounds to encourage more outdoor activity.

The trail accommodates and encourages exploration of these scenic waterways by canoe, kayak or motorboat.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, established by Congress in 1964, is one of the funding sources for ADECA's Recreational Programs. LWCF grants can be used to build, renovate and improve parks and play areas, create wildlife refuges and forest areas and preserve historic sites. Since 2003, LWCF has made it possible for ADECA to award \$6,952,506 to support 115 outdoor recreation projects across Alabama.

The **Recreational Trails Program** of the U.S. Department of Transportation provides another funding source. These funds can be used to build or improve trails for hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, horseback riding, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or for using other off-road motorized vehicles. Through this program, ADECA has funded 125 trail and trail-related projects, totaling nearly \$7 million, since 2003.

As Alabama trails have become more extensive and diverse, they have begun attracting the national recognition they deserve.

Last year the U.S. Department of Interior designated nine Alabama trails as National Recreation Trails, almost tripling the number of Alabama trails to receive that honor. In the

previous four decades, only five of our state's trails had achieved this designation.

"The diversity of our trails means that there is a trail suited to just about anyone whether you like walking, riding motorized vehicles or paddling a canoe," said Grant. "Our trails are too good not to share them on a national level."

Alabama is fortunate to have dedicated enthusiasts who understand that outdoor recreation not only boosts health and the quality of life, but also stimulates tourism and economic development.

Richard Martin, a member of the state Trail Advisory Committee, exemplifies the vital role that volunteers play in developing and promoting outdoor recreation opportunities. Martin not only was instrumental in nominating two of the trails that won national recognition, he also led the campaign to develop one of them. To build the trail, he undertook a determined 25-year mission that even included a penny campaign at Lawrence County schools that brought in \$16,000. The pennies were so bulky it took two armored cars to transport them to the bank. Martin Trail has been named in his honor.

"If that kind of effort doesn't make you proud to be an Alabamian then I don't know what will," Grant said.



Stony Lonesome Park near Cullman has become a major attraction for off-road vehicle enthusiasts.

Legal Section

LEGAL SECTION GUIDES AND REPRESENTS ADECA

There are many laws and administrative rules that govern the actions of ADECA's staff. In addition to general laws governing public employees, every grant administered by the department comes with its own requirements and regulations. ADECA's Legal Section helps ensure that ADECA staff, program managers and grant recipients are aware of all statutory and other legal requirements.

The section reviews all contracts and legal documents relating to grants and the other activities of the department.

ADECA attorneys provide daily

guidance to the staff, represent the department in litigation matters and make court appearances when required.

The section works closely with the ADECA Human Resources section on employment issues to ensure that employees are aware of policies and procedures involving their duties and to make certain that any personnel actions are conducted in accordance with the law.

The section monitors statutory and regulatory changes that affect ADECA and advises the staff of new requirements.



Human Resources

HUMAN RESOURCES HELPS ADECA MAINTAIN A WELL-QUALIFIED STAFF

The employees of ADECA administer dozens of complex programs that strengthen communities and improve the quality of life of residents. ADECA's Human Resources Section works to ensure that the department maintains the qualified staff required to manage these programs effectively on behalf of the people of Alabama.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act brought increased federal funding and additional duties to ADECA's Energy Division in 2009 and 2010. Because the extra responsibilities were so substantial, additional staff would be required to handle the new duties. Human Resources worked with the division to create special temporary

positions and hire workers in late 2009. These positions will continue as long as the division is expending the extra economic stimulus funds.

The section also continued an internship program started in mid-2009 that gives Montgomery-area college students the opportunity to gain real-world job experience at ADECA. Five students from Alabama State University and Auburn University Montgomery completed internships at ADECA for course credit in 2010.

Other Human Resources duties include notifying employees of job-training opportunities and changes to their health insurance and providing guidance to supervisors on disciplinary issues.

Information Services

INFORMATION SERVICES PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN ADECA OPERATIONS

ADECA's Information Services section provides a vital behind-the-scenes service that makes it possible for the department's staff to carry out their responsibilities. From computer and server maintenance and software upgrades to telecommunication equipment and website navigation, Information Services supplies the technical support that ensures these vital tools function properly.

Funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created some new accounting and reporting duties for many ADECA programs. To ensure transparency and accountability to taxpayers, a system was needed to share internal reports so that the public could see how the funds were being put to work.

Information Services stepped up to the challenge, working with the Program Integrity Unit and the Communications and Information Division to create monthly ARRA reports that could be posted on the ADECA website and easily located and viewed by the public.

The IS staff also implemented changes to the website design for easier navigation, including drop-down menus and front-page links to sections such as the ARRA reports.

With help from a knowledgeable Information Services staff, ADECA employees are able to work more effectively with government and non-profit agencies across the state to serve Alabama residents.

Alabama Rural Action Commission

RURAL COMMISSION IMPROVES STATE ON REGIONAL LEVEL

Created in 2007, the Alabama Rural Action Commission was modeled after the successful Alabama Black Belt Action Commission, but on a grander scale.

Improving economic opportunity and the quality of life for rural areas throughout the state was the commission's central mission. Like the Black Belt Action Commission, the Rural Commission was powered almost exclusively by volunteers.

Rural Commission volunteers were organized into eight regional committees with the purpose of identifying and addressing the most pressing challenges facing their region. Primary goals included improving health, education and economic development.

One of the most successful programs, KidCheck, was implemented in every region. A volunteer program sponsored by health-care professionals

and specialists, the goal of KidCheck was to provide basic health checks for school-age children. The program was nurtured with assistance from Alabama colleges that made it possible for their nursing students to deliver many of the required medical services. Private companies also assisted to make the program a success.

During the first two years of the program, more than 50,000 Alabama children were screened for basic illnesses. The program was conducted in about 40 school systems in Alabama, and children who were diagnosed with illnesses were provided follow-up health care.

The commission also pushed for the construction of a major highway from Birmingham through northwest Alabama. Known as Corridor X, the project is expected to stimulate economic development in that area of the state.

Communications and Information

CID INFORMS PUBLIC ABOUT ADECA PROGRAMS; ENCOURAGED PARTICIPATION IN 2010 CENSUS

Each year ADECA receives millions of federal dollars and uses them to provide important services and to help Alabama communities complete vital projects that they would otherwise be unable to undertake. The Communications and Information Division helps foster ADECA's mission of Building Better Alabama Communities by informing the public about the department's grants and programs, serving as the primary point of contact for the public and news media and providing support to all ADECA divisions and sections.

The Communications and Information Division played a major role in encouraging citizen participation in the 2010 Census. Participation was vital because each person missed by the Census would cost Alabama communities more than \$13,000 in federal funding for Medicaid, education programs, highway planning, housing, children's health insurance and dozens of other programs over the coming decade. This funding also supports economic development projects, community services and other vital programs administered by ADECA.

With the CID Director serving as the **Governor's Liaison with the U.S. Census Bureau**, the division organized and led the Alabama Complete Count Committee to boost the response rate to the 2010 Census questionnaire. The committee included representatives from state and local government, community and faith-based organizations, the news media and the business community. The committee identified areas or groups within the state that might be missed by the Census and

developed strategies to ensure they were included in Alabama's count.

The key goal of the committee was to boost the number of state households that mailed back their Census forms. The mail-back response rate increased 6 percent above the level in 2000, placing Alabama in the top five states in the nation for improved response. A total of 53 counties exceeded their mail-back participation rates from 2000.

ADECA is committed to administering the federal and state funds entrusted to the department in an open and transparent manner. CID's **Public Information section** helps maintain this accountability by posting announcements of grant



CID played a major role in promoting Census participation.

awards online, writing and issuing news releases, and providing advance notification to members of the Alabama Legislature of grant awards that impact their districts. The division also updates a special section on the ADECA website giving the public an accounting of how the department is using funds allocated by the American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

CID's **Graphic Arts section** provides additional support for ADECA's programs by designing and printing handbooks, brochures, reports, forms, posters, signs, business cards and other materials. CID also publishes an online employee newsletter called **@ADECA** to keep the staff informed about departmental news, media coverage of ADECA-related programs and legislation that may affect the department.

Financial Services

FINANCIAL SERVICES KEEPS ADECA ON BUDGET

No matter which program or whatever the duties, every office and every staff member at ADECA is dependent on Financial Services. Much like the electrical wiring in a home, Financial Services is a behind-the-scenes force that is essential to the daily operation of the department; it ensures the steady, proper flow of resources required to keep ADECA running smoothly.

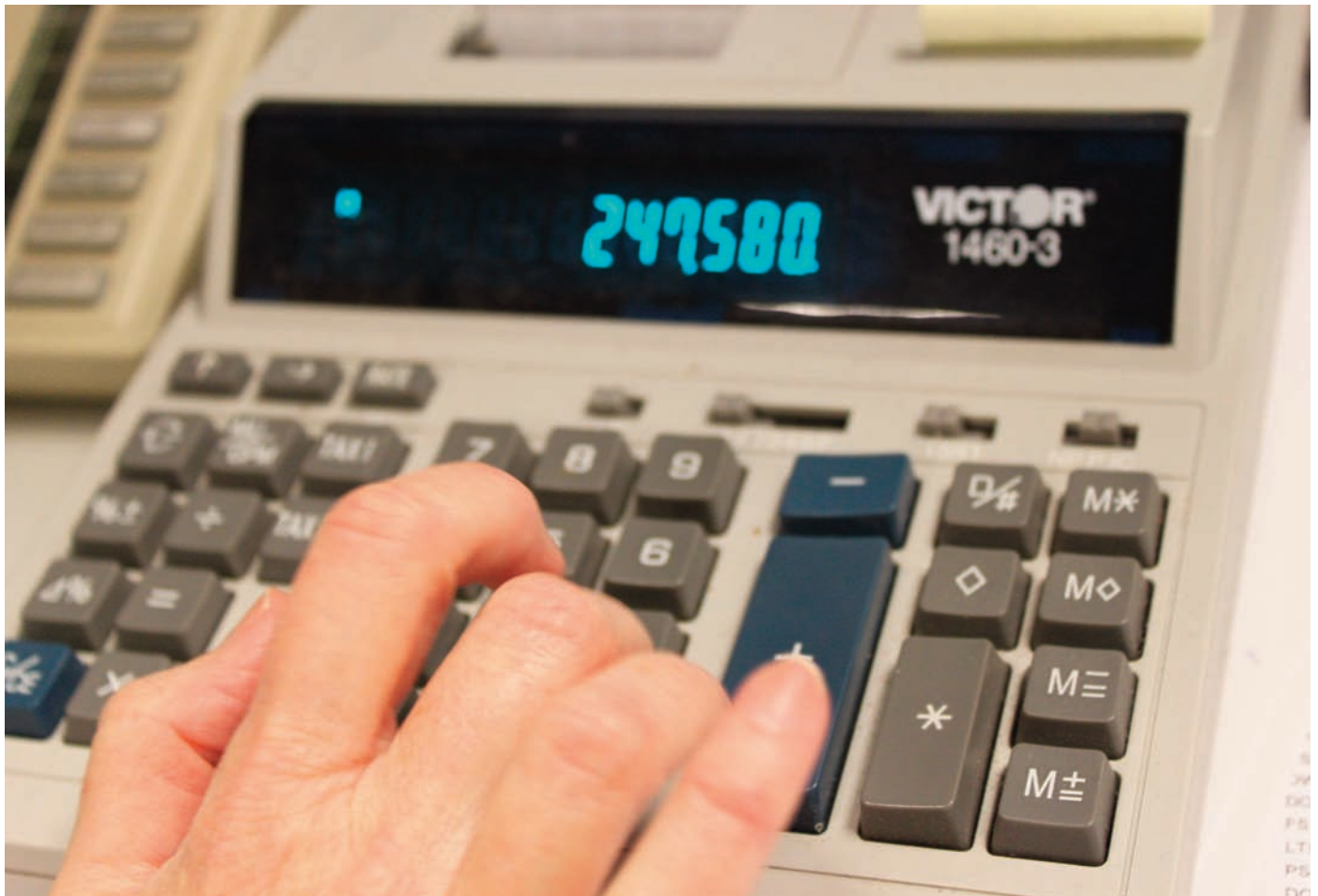
The section is charged with tracking and managing hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars each year, accounting for state property and maintaining detailed financial records for the department. Duties include processing the payroll, purchasing equipment, supplies and services, maintaining property inventory records and ensuring

that grant recipients and vendors get paid.

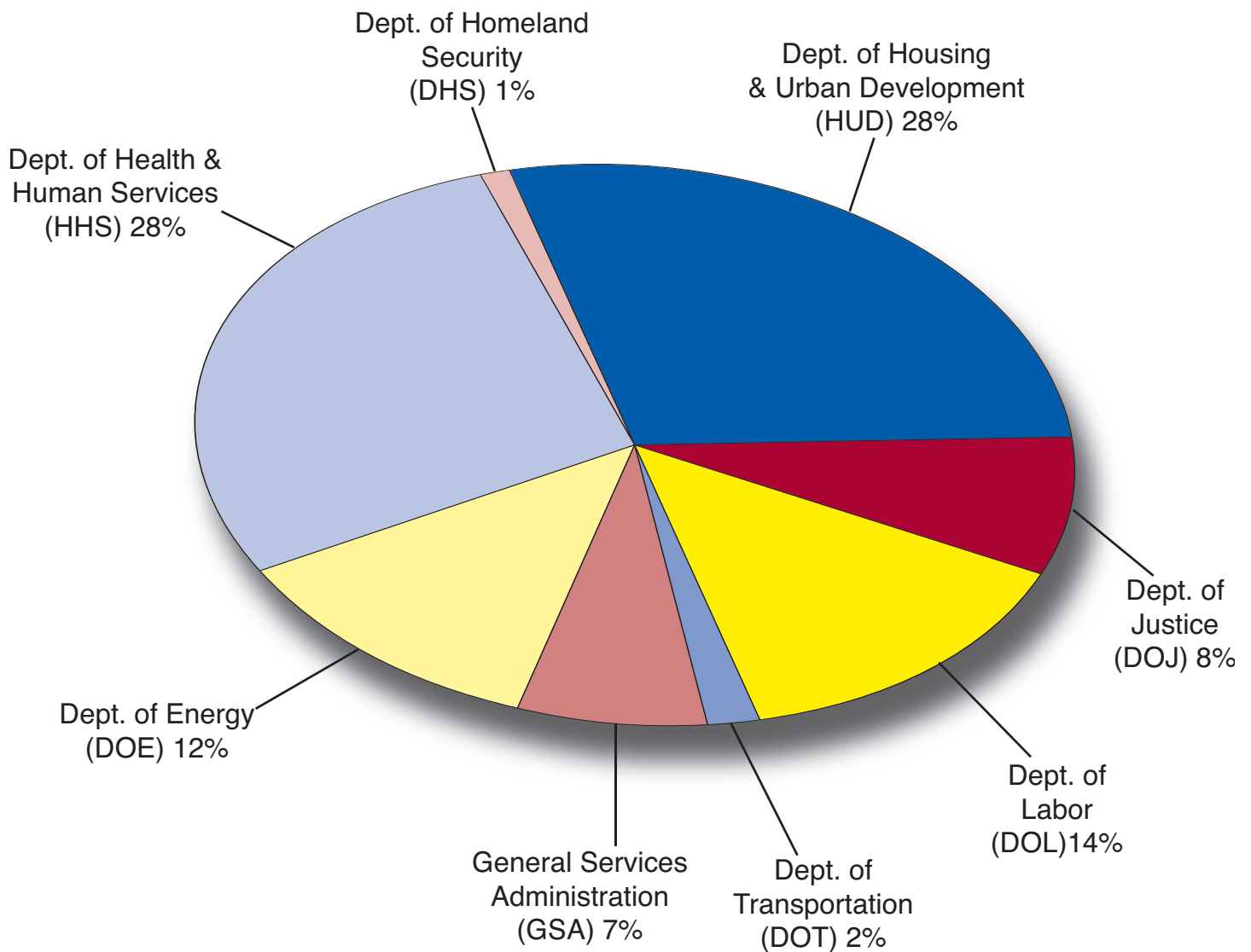
Financial Services works with the ADECA director and program managers to prepare annual budgets and operation plans for the department. Expenditures are monitored to ensure that each office stays within its budget. Employees keep an accurate, up-to-date inventory of ADECA property and they oversee travel expenses.

Financial Services handles purchases for the department, ensuring that items purchased by ADECA are bought at competitive prices.

Each year the section provides a financial report itemizing income and disbursements of federal funding and this document is incorporated into ADECA's Annual Report.



Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Federal Funding Sources
FY 2010



Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

2009-2010 Federal Receipts and Disbursements

Highlight indicates ARRA programs.

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		
University of Alabama in Huntsville		
Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education	2,957	3,257
State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program - ARRA	8,600	262
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT		
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	84,565,211	84,582,729
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	1,354,245	1,352,441
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	1,338,522	1,338,522
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program - ARRA	5,144,735	5,142,198
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program - ARRA	5,394,233	5,393,678
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR		
U S Geological Survey_Research and Data Collection	84,064	84,064
National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program	2,943	2,261
Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning	586,331	586,331
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	767,382	906,365
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention_Allocation to States	841,285	840,440
Title V_Delinquency Prevention Program	28,469	28,707
Crime Victim Assistance	5,332,783	5,332,603
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	1,773,686	1,767,804
Violence Against Women Formula Grants - ARRA	1,166,728	1,166,684
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	198,736	198,641
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	10,149	5,093
Project Safe Neighborhoods	164,437	164,063
Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants	182,197	182,197
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	355,269	355,015
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	5,109,502	3,188,347
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	116,511	116,414
State Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program - ARRA	542,620	540,016
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program - ARRA	10,419,482	10,244,343
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR		
WIA Adult Program	7,630,467	7,732,892
WIA Adult Program - ARRA	3,297,456	3,320,675
WIA Youth Activities	8,792,945	8,815,333
WIA Youth Activities - ARRA	3,305,524	3,316,133
WIA Dislocated Workers	12,573,132	12,490,146
WIA Dislocated Workers - ARRA	6,047,413	5,971,328
WIA Pilots, Demonstrations, and Research Projects	5,879,678	5,900,907
Work Incentive Grants	321,200	321,672
Community Based Job Training Grants	204,953	204,297
Program of Competitive Grants for Worker Training and Placement in High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors - ARRA	43,184	40,408

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Recreational Trails Program	1,418,250	1,418,264
State and Community Highway Safety	3,479,118	3,549,471
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants I	1,710,716	1,850,856
Occupant Protection Incentive Grants	237,523	276,584
Safety Belt Performance Grants	845,222	827,679
State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants	354,531	333,821
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION		
Appalachian Regional Development	2,080	2,080
Appalachian Area Development	86,007	86,007
Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration	112,500	129,091
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION		
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property	24,583,589	20,351,613
	value of property-not cash received	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY		
Petroleum Violation Escrow	5,206	679,880
State Energy Program	353,295	356,029
State Energy Program - ARRA	14,041,058	14,080,961
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	1,783,482	1,797,813
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons - ARRA	23,168,679	23,130,434
State Energy Program Special Projects	21,630	21,630
State Energy Program Special Projects - ARRA	83,688	83,688
Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (EEARP) - ARRA	2,782,282	2,782,282
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) - ARRA	385,281	380,281
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
State and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_State Grants	878,469	878,690
DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY		
Delta Area Economic Development	18,318	85,000
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	67,292,574	67,273,022
Community Services Block Grant	12,350,635	12,348,515
Empowerment Zones Program	3,489	3,489
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants for Battered Women's Shelters	1,437,193	1,437,123
ARRA - Community Services Block Grant	16,258,112	16,162,112
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	143,992	135,597
Cooperating Technical Partners	5,302,727	5,302,727
Map Modernization Management Support	97,272	97,272
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS	352,823,945	347,498,276

Get Connected to ADECA Services

<i>ADECA</i>	334-242-5100
<i>Alabama Advantage</i>	334-242-5469
<i>Alabama Rural Development Office (ARDO)</i>	334-353-9568
<i>Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)</i>	256-845-3472
<i>Audit</i>	334-242-5470
<i>Black Belt Action Commission</i>	334-353-9568
<i>Communications & Information Division (CID)</i>	334-242-5525
<i>Community and Economic Development Programs (CED)</i>	334-242-0492
<i>Community Services Section (CSS)</i>	334-353-4909
<i>ConnectingALABAMA</i>	334-353-5882
<i>Director's Office</i>	334-242-5591
<i>Energy Division (ED)</i>	334-242-5290
<i>Financial Services (FS)</i>	334-242-5729
<i>Gov.'s Resources and Economic Assistance Programs (REAP)</i> ..	334-242-5370
<i>Human Resources (HR)</i>	334-242-5251
<i>Information Services (IS)</i>	334-242-5529
<i>Law Enforcement & Traffic Safety (LETS)</i>	334-242-5897
<i>Legal Section</i>	334-242-5255
<i>Office of Water Resources (OWR)</i>	334-242-5499
<i>Office of Workforce Development (OWD)</i>	334-242-5300
<i>Passport to Fitness</i>	334-353-3719
<i>Program Integrity</i>	334-242-5470
<i>Recreational Programs</i>	334-242-5483
<i>Surplus Property Division (SPD)</i>	334-284-0577



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